

Westwood also leaves a mountain of debt

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Town of Wallkill – Westwood Chemical left behind a building full of chemicals when it closed. It also left some 200 creditors holding the bag for more than \$9 million in debts.

Near the top of the list of creditors is Orange County.

According to Westwood's recent Chapter 7 bankruptcy filing, the company owes \$516,894.05 in back property taxes. But that number keeps growing.

Westwood also owes \$634,736.39 for town, county and Middletown School District taxes dating back to 2003, according to Orange County's Finance Department.

If the liquidation of Westwood's assets doesn't generate enough to pay the bill, taxpayers from Port Jervis and Newburgh could end up picking up Westwood's tab.

Other debts in bankruptcy filing include:

- Four mortgages on Westwood's plant and warehouse on Tower Drive, with claims totaling slightly more than \$4 million. In all, the company has nearly \$5.4 million in debt secured by its plant. Unfortunately for those creditors, the plant is worth only \$2.7 million, according to the filing.

- A \$15,062.81 water bill from the Town of Wallkill.

- A \$110,253.50 judgment for a man injured near the company's property.

Westwood owes hundreds of thousands of dollars to chemical companies and other businesses across the country, but many of its smaller debts hit closer to home. The list of unsecured nonpriority claims (the creditors least likely to see any money when the bankruptcy case is settled) is 48 pages long, and includes:

- \$6,611.25 owed to B.M. Briggs Excavating in Middletown.

- \$1,496.12 to Calkin Lawn Care in Middletown.

- \$479.02 to Coffee Systems of the Hudson Valley in Ulster Park.

- \$480,000 to company president and 50-percent owner Emma Masset, for a loan to the company and car-lease payments.

- \$894.80 to Leisure Time Ice & Spring Water in Kiamesha Lake.

- \$13,432.35 to Wallkill accounting firm Levitan Yegidis & Goldstein.

- \$405.93 to Liberty Pest Control in Middletown.

- \$120,686.25 to Orange and Rockland Utilities.

- \$49.59 to the Orange County Sheriff's Office.

- \$2,450 to Partners in Safety of Middletown, which manages drug- and alcohol-testing programs.

- \$315.60 to Upstate Limousine in Middletown.

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